



**Consulate General of the  
United States of America  
Chennai**

**DOMICILE FOR IMMIGRANT VISA SPONSORS**

**Section 213A** of the Immigration and Nationality Act requires that the petitioner should be domiciled in the United States or its territories and possessions. The county of domicile is the country where you maintain your principal residence and where you plan to reside for the foreseeable future. In order to file an I-864 Affidavit of Support, your country of domicile must be the United States.

If the petitioner is not currently living in the United States but his principal abode is in the United States (i.e., students, contract workers, and non-governmental organization (NGO) volunteers), the petitioner must prove that he or she:

- (1) Departed the United States for a limited, and not indefinite, period of time;
- (2) Intended to maintain a U.S. domicile at the time of departure; and,
- (3) Can present convincing evidence of continued ties to the United States.

**9 FAM 40.41 N6.1-2 Establishing U.S. Domicile**

A petitioner living abroad not meeting the criteria in [9 FAM 40.41 N6.1-1](#), who wishes to qualify as a sponsor must prove:

- (1) That he or she has either already taken up physical residence in the United States or will do so currently with the applicant;
- (2) The sponsor must establish an address (a house, an apartment, or arrangements for accommodations with family or friend) and either must have already taken up physical residence in the United States; or intends to take up residence there no later than the time of the applicant's immigration to the United States.

Evidence that the sponsor has established a domicile in the United States and is either physically residing there or intends to do so before or concurrently with the applicant include the following:

- (1) Opening a bank account;
- (2) Transferring funds to/making investments in the United States;
- (3) Proof of paying state and federal taxes in the United States;
- (4) Seeking employment in the United States;
- (5) Registering children in U.S. schools;
- (6) Applying for a Social Security number; and
- (7) Voting in local, State, or Federal elections.